

NEWSLETTER – FRIENDS OF THE SALEM LIBRARY

JANUARY 2015

VOLUME 11

ISSUE 1

President's Letter

Charlie Draper, President

I want to thank Ken Sosnowski for preparing the January Newsletter while I was preoccupied with family duties.

2014 was a year of progress, a year of change, and a year of loss.

Progress, the high points: FOSL provided funds of \$5000 to purchase a touch-screen scanner for use by patrons. We also funded an early learning computer that replaced an older one that had failed. As in years past, we provided funds to support the Children's Library Summer Reading Program and funded a new Outside Book Drop (\$5000) to replace one that spent too many years in the rain and snow. With the Library, we sponsored the Children's Art Show in May. This grows every year as it becomes an annual event. And last, but certainly not least, the Book Sale was a resounding success in September. I'm sure Ken will have more detail elsewhere in this newsletter.

Changes: Our Vice President, Ken Sosnowski, replaced Sara Ahalt as Book Sale Chairman. Sara had served in this position as long as I have been a member of FOSL. Under her watch, she built the FOSL Book Sale into an event looked forward to by book lovers all over the Roanoke Valley and beyond. Ken built on this foundation in the 2014 sale.

At the July FOSL meeting, we welcomed Ann Tripp as the new Director of the Salem Library. We celebrated Janis Augustine's retirement with cake and punch after the meeting. We aren't saying goodbye to Janis. She continues to be an active member of FOSL.

Loss: Dr. Bob and Alice Paine passed. They supported FOSL from shortly after our founding. They remembered FOSL in their wills, bequeathing \$2000 each.

We lost Dorothy Davis. We remember the beautiful flower arrangements she created for our special events like the Art Show. We purchased a book on flowers for the Library in her memory. The New Year offers **Opportunity**. We are in a very good financial position. We have an active membership that pitches in on our projects. They come to the meetings and help us make good decisions. Of course, the biggest project of the year is the Book Sale. I ask all members to pitch in to support Ken as we prepare for the September sale.

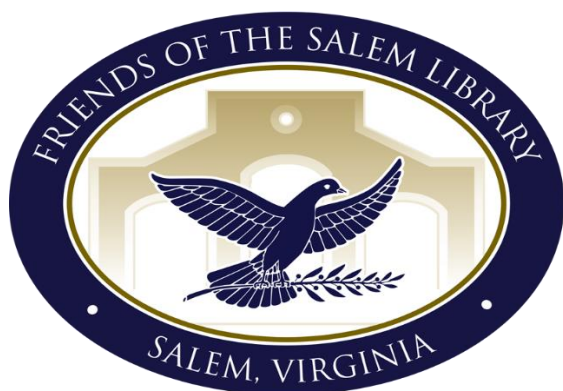


Rear: Ken Sosnowski (left), Charlie Draper
Front: Joyce Foster (left), Susan Ahalt

On Sunday, January 11, 2015 we elected the officers who will lead us during the New Year.

Charlie Draper was re-elected President and Ken Sosnowski as Vice President. Susan Ahalt returns as Secretary, and Joyce Foster returns as Treasurer.

Although there were no elections for Board of Directors this year, the death of Bob Paine left a vacancy. Gale Evans was appointed to fill the seat until the next election.



Like it?

Thanks to the artist abilities of Director of Communications, Mike Stevens and his staff, FOSL now has its own logo. Hopefully you will see it often and in many surprising places in the future.

The grand opening was its use on the banner on the Library float in the Salem Christmas Parade.



This was the Library's first entry in the annual parade. The staff planned and built the float and then fully equipped it with their children. Although it was a cold night, the excitement level was enough to keep everyone warm.

If you missed the parade, it is actually available on the internet at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0q4g88GPz00

You can jump directly to our float at 45 minutes into the film.



25¢ Book Sale

Books that are withdrawn from the Library shelves have normally been included in the book sale, but they are not big sellers. With our increased volume of donated books, it has become necessary to remove the slowest selling books from our inventory. Ann Tripp, Head Librarian, has offered to set up a permanent FOSL book sale in the Library to offer these withdrawn books for sale. This will give us more space during the Book Sale and increase the possibility of selling these books.

Book Sale 2014

What a great year! We received a flood of books. Fortunately, Luke Waldrop made some space available for storing the overflow. The plethora of books stimulated new ideas.



The children's books were moved into the Library proper, freeing up room for a special "Star" table just for the most popular authors. These changes greatly improved the flow around our much too small room.

The Friday morning, Members Only Sale, saw a small increase over previous years. As a member, remember that you can have first choice of the books and, if you call ahead, a **free lunch!**



Although Olde Salem Day was damp and overcast, we saw a steady stream of customers. We offered the use of credit cards, but they accounted for only 12% of sales. We expect that percentage to increase as people realize they can charge their books. Sunday saw a long line of patrons with boxes and bags in hand waiting somewhat patiently for the sale to begin. Although it seemed that books were flying out the door, we ended with 187 boxes of books to be donated to St. Elizabeth's book sale.

Our cadre of loyal volunteers breathed a collective sigh of relief when Sunday evening came. They had unpacked, sorted, marked and then sold over 5000 books. I know that you are wondering how did we

Although Olde Salem Day was damp and overcast, we saw a steady stream of



do monetarily. Well, we did just fine! We cleared over \$6700, making this the second highest sale we've ever had..

Now that we've had a chance to catch our breath, it's time to begin planning to make the 2015 sale even bigger and definitely better.

Want to join us? In early August, we will begin unpacking the books. You don't need strength, just interest and the willingness to be a member of an elite group of book lovers.

Each year, we have received a number of unusual and potentially valuable books. Most are sold from the Specials Table near the entrance. A few have been so unusual (17th century French law book)



that they shouldn't and can't be sold at a local book sale. These books are being searched through the internet in an effort to discover their value and then they will be offered for sale, either through commercial book sellers or on Ebay.

Library Report

The new Head Librarian, Ann Tripp, has published a report of Library activities for the past year. She created it as a report to FOSL, but it is such a great summary of the many activities going on at **our library**, that we are going to have it posted on our website and have copies available at the circulation desk. Pick up one the next time you're there.

Post This Page on Your Refrigerator

Officers of the Friends of the Salem Library:

President: Charles Draper
Vice President: Kenneth Sosnowski
Secretary: Susan Ahalt
Treasurer: Joyce Foster

Board of Directors:

Sara Ahalt Helen Robertson
Betty Waldron Kenneth Sosnowski
Gale Evans.

Standing Committees:

Book Sale: Ken Sosnowski
Newsletter Editor: Charlie Draper 387-9824
Labels for Education: Sara Ahalt
This Newsletter is published biannually in January and August of each year by the Friends of the Salem Library, c/o

The Salem Public Library, 28 E. Main St, Salem, VA 24153-3897

Internet:

www.salemlibrary.info/Community/FriendsoftheLibrary.aspx

Membership dues (other than Life) are payable **January 1 of each year**. Consult your mailing label. If the date shown is **prior to 2015**, please renew your membership. You may pay by check (payable to FOSL) at the Library desk or by mail.

Important Dates

FOSL holds a minimum of four (4) regular meetings each year. They are on the 2nd Sunday of the scheduled month. Meetings start at 2PM and last for approximately one hour.

- **March 8:** Regular meeting
(Note: Daylight Savings begins today.)
- **May 17:** Children's Art Show and reception
- **July 12:** Regular meeting
- **Book Sale Preparation starts in August. Date TBD.**
- **Weekend of September 12: FOSL Book Sale. Exact schedule TBD.** (Sept 12 is Olde Salem Days)
- **October 11:** Regular meeting

Please attend the meetings and events and volunteer your time to contribute to the success of Friends of the Salem Library

Membership dues (other than life) are on an annual basis and are payable January 1 of each year. Your dues help support the library.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Type: Please indicate type of membership with an X.

_____ **Individual (\$10)** _____ **Family (\$15)** _____ **Sustaining (\$25)** _____ **Life (\$75)**

Please mail to: Friends of the Salem Library, c/o The Salem Public Library, 28 E. Main St, Salem, VA 24153. Make checks payable to: *Friends of the Salem Library* or *FOSL*. You may also drop this form and your check at the Library Desk.